

39. (Cancelled September 11, 2002 without prejudice or disclaimer.)

40. (Cancelled September 11, 2002 without prejudice or disclaimer.)

Claims 41-224 (Cancelled) Please cancel without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 225-329.

225. (New) A monitoring system monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in said at least one serving or storage container storing food; and

a processing subsystem receiving and processing said at least one data stream,

wherein said at least one data stream includes data corresponding to an identifier of said at least one sensing device.

226. (New) The monitoring system of claim 225, wherein said identifier is a device identifier.

227. (New) The monitoring system of claim 225, wherein said identifier is a device type identifier.

228. (New) The monitoring system of claim 225, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a plurality of portable sensing devices, wherein said plurality of portable sensing devices are disposed so that each of a plurality of serving or storage containers has disposed therein at least one of said plurality of portable sensing devices.

229. (New) The monitoring system of claim 225, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a plurality of sensing devices and a central transmitter, wherein said central

transmitter is in communication with each of said plurality of sensing devices, and wherein said central transmitter is further in communication with said processing subsystem.

230. (New) The monitoring system of claim 225, wherein said at least one sensing device is a cooking utensil incorporating a sensor.

231. (New) The monitoring system of claim 225, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a temperature sensor.

232. (New) The monitoring system of claim 225, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises an airflow sensor.

233. (New) The monitoring system of claim 225, wherein said at least one sensing device is portable.

234. (New) The monitoring system, of claim 225, wherein said system is configured so that said sensing device is a portable sensing device adapted to wirelessly transmit said at least one data stream.

235. (New) The monitoring system of claim 225, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said first and second sensing devices are configured so that at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second device include data corresponding to an identifier.

236. (New) The monitoring system of claim 225, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and

second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to compress at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second sensing device.

237. (New) The monitoring system of claim 225, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to time stamp at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second sensing device.

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238. (New) The monitoring system of claim 225, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to determine whether a data stream received therein corresponds to a sensing device which is newly added to said system.

239. (New) A monitoring system monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in said at least one serving or storage container storing food; and

a processing subsystem receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said processing subsystem is adapted to at least one of either date stamp or time stamp said data stream.

240. (New) The monitoring system of claim 239, wherein said processing subsystem is adapted to date stamp said at least one data stream.

241. (New) The monitoring system of claim 239, wherein said processing subsystem is adapted to time stamp said at least one data stream.

242. (New) The monitoring system of claim 239, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a plurality of portable sensing devices, wherein said plurality of portable sensing devices are disposed so that each of a plurality of serving or storage containers has disposed therein at least one of said plurality of portable sensing devices.

243. (New) The monitoring system of claim 239, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a plurality of sensing devices and a central transmitter, wherein said central transmitter is in communication with each of said plurality of sensing devices, and wherein said central transmitter is further in communication with said processing subsystem.

244. (New) The monitoring system of claim 239, wherein said at least one sensing device is a cooking utensil incorporating a sensor.

245. (New) The monitoring system of claim 239, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a temperature sensor.

246. (New) The monitoring system of claim 239, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises an airflow sensor.

247. (New) The monitoring system of claim 239, wherein said at least one sensing device is portable.

248. (New) The monitoring system, of claim 239, wherein said system is configured so that said sensing device is a portable sensing device adapted to wirelessly transmit said at least one data stream to said processing subsystem.

249. (New) The monitoring system of claim 239, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said first and second sensing devices are configured so that at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second device include data corresponding to an identifier.

250. (New) The monitoring system of claim 239, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to compress at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second sensing device.

251. (New) The monitoring system of claim 239, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to time stamp at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second sensing device.

252. (New) The monitoring system of claim 239, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to determine whether a data stream received therein corresponds to a sensing device which is newly added to said system.

253. (New) A monitoring system monitoring food stored in at least one serving or

storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in said at least one serving or storage container storing food; and

a processing subsystem receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said processing subsystem includes a memory having an indexed hierarchical data storage structure including at least one device index tree indexed by a device identifier and by date stamp data, and wherein said processing subsystem is adapted to encrypt said data stream and write said encrypted data stream to said indexed hierarchical data storage structure indexed by said device identifier and by said date stamp data.

254. (New) The monitoring system of claim 253, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a temperature sensor.

255. (New) The monitoring system of claim 253, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a seismic sensor.

256. (New) The monitoring system of claim 253, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a pressure sensor.

257. (New) The monitoring system of claim 253, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises an airflow sensor.

258. (New) The monitoring system of claim 253, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a weight sensor.

259. (New) The monitoring system of claim 253, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a plurality of portable sensing devices, wherein said plurality of portable sensing devices are disposed so that each of a plurality of serving or storage containers has

disposed therein at least one of said plurality of portable sensing devices.

260. (New) The monitoring system of claim 253, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a plurality of portable sensing devices and a central transmitter, wherein said central transmitter is in communication with each of said plurality of portable sensing devices, and wherein said central transmitter is further in communication with said processing subsystem.

261. (New) A monitoring system monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

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a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in said at least one serving or storage container storing food; and

a processing subsystem receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said sensing subsystem is adapted so that sensing devices can be added to or deleted from said sensing subsystem, wherein said processing subsystem includes a display, wherein said processing system is adapted to output on said display graphical indicia indicating each of said sensing devices connected to said system.

262. (New) The monitoring system of claim 261, wherein said at least one data stream includes an identifier.

263. (New) The monitoring system of claim 261, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a plurality of portable sensing devices, wherein said plurality of portable sensing devices are disposed so that each of a plurality of serving or storage containers has disposed therein at least one of said plurality of portable sensing devices.

264. (New) The monitoring system of claim 261, wherein said at least one sensing device is adapted to be in contact with food.

265. (New) The monitoring system of claim 261, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a plurality of portable sensing devices and a central transmitter, wherein said central transmitter is in communication with each of said plurality of portable sensing devices, and wherein said central transmitter is further in communication with said processing subsystem.

266. (New) The monitoring system of claim 261, wherein said at least one sensing device is a portable sensing device comprising a temperature sensor.

267. (New) The monitoring system of claim 261, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises an airflow sensor.

268. (New) The monitoring system of claim 261, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to at least one of time or date stamp at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second sensing device.

269. (New) The monitoring system of claim 261, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a weight sensor.

270. (New) The monitoring system of claim 261, wherein said at least one sensing device is a portable device in a form of a fork, knife, or spoon.

271. (New) The monitoring system, of claim 261, wherein said system is configured so that said sensing device is a portable sensing device adapted to wirelessly transmit said at least one data stream to said processing subsystem.

272. (New) The monitoring system of claim 261, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second portable sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second portable sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to compress at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second sensing device.

273. (New) The monitoring system of claim 261, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to determine whether a data stream received therein corresponds to a sensing device which is newly added to said system.

274. (New) A monitoring system monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in said at least one serving or storage container storing food; and

a processing subsystem receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said sensing subsystem is adapted so that sensing devices can be added to or deleted from said sensing subsystem, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a plurality of sensing devices currently logging data, wherein said processing subsystem includes a display and a memory, and wherein said processing system is adapted to output on said display graphical indicia indicating each of said sensing devices which is currently logging data.

275. (New) The monitoring system of claim 274, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that

said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said first and second sensing devices are configured so that at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second device include data corresponding to an identifier.

276. (New) The monitoring system of claim 274, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a plurality of sensing devices, wherein said plurality of sensing devices are disposed so that each of a plurality of serving or storage containers has disposed therein at least one of said plurality of sensing devices.

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277. (New) The monitoring system of claim 274, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a plurality of portable sensing devices and a central transmitter, wherein said central transmitter is in communication with each of said plurality of portable sensing devices, and wherein said central transmitter is further in communication with said processing subsystem.

278. (New) The monitoring system of claim 274, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a cooking utensil incorporating a temperature sensor.

279. (New) The monitoring system of claim 274, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to determine whether a data stream received therein corresponds to a sensing device which is newly added to said system.

280. (New) The monitoring system of claim 274, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and

second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to time or date stamp at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second sensing device.

281. (New) The monitoring system of claim 274, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a pressure sensor.

282. (New) The monitoring system, of claim 274, wherein said system is configured so that said at least one sensing device is a portable sensing device adapted to wirelessly transmit said at least one data stream.

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283. (New) The monitoring system of claim 274, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second portable sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second portable sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to compress at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second sensing device.

284. (New) The monitoring system of claim 274, wherein said at least one sensing device is a portable device including a temperature sensor.

285. (New) A monitoring system monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem including at least one sensing device generating at least one data stream, said at least one sensing device adapted to be disposed in said at least one serving or storage container storing food; and

a processing subsystem receiving and processing said data stream,

wherein said processing subsystem includes a display and a memory, wherein said processing system is adapted to execute a polling routine wherein said processing

subsystem analyzes the content of data in said memory to determine the identity of each sensing device included in said system, and to determine which of said sensing devices are currently logging data, wherein said processing subsystem is adapted to output on said display graphical indicia responsive to said polling routine indicating each of said sensing devices which has been connected to said system, and to further output on said display a logging icon for each device which is currently logging data.

286. (New) The monitoring system of claim 285, wherein said at least one sensing device is a cooking utensil incorporating a sensor.

287. (New) The monitoring system of claim 285, wherein said at least one sensing device is provided by a probe having an elongated hollow pin section, said elongated hollow pin section incorporating a sensor.

288. (New) The monitoring system of claim 285, wherein said at least one sensing device is a portable device including a temperature sensor.

289. (New) A monitoring system monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem comprising first and second sensing devices, each generating at least one data stream; and

a processing subsystem receiving and processing said at least one data stream, said processing subsystem adapted to compress at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second sensing device,

wherein said at least one sensing device is adapted to be disposed in said at least one serving or storage container storing food.

290. (New) The monitoring system of claim 289, wherein said first and second sensing devices are in a form of one of a fork, knife or spoon.

291. (New) The monitoring system of claim 289, wherein said first and second sensing devices are in the form of one of a probe, a fork, a knife, or a spoon, and wherein said system is configured so that said at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices is wirelessly transmitted to said processing subsystem.

292. (New) The monitoring system of claim 289, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a central transmitter, wherein said each of said first and second sensing devices are portable, and wherein said each of said first and second sensing devices is in communication with said central transmitter.

293 (cont'd) 293. (New) The monitoring system of claim 289, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a central transmitter, wherein said each of said first and second sensing devices are portable, and wherein said each of said first and second sensing devices is in communication with said central transmitter, and wherein said central transmitter is in wireless communication with said processing subsystem.

294. (New) The monitoring system of claim 289, wherein at least one of said first and second sensing devices is mounted in an interior of a refrigerator.

295. (New) The monitoring system of claim 289, wherein said first and second sensing devices are configured so that at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second device include data corresponding to an identifier.

296. (New) The monitoring system of claim 289, wherein each of said first and second sensing devices is a portable temperature sensing device.

297. (New) The monitoring system of claim 289, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that

said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to determine whether a data stream received therein corresponds to a sensing device which is newly added to said system.

298. (New) The monitoring system of claim 289, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to at least one of time or date stamp at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second sensing device.

299. (New) A monitoring system comprising:

a sensing subsystem having at least one sensing device generating at least one data stream; and

a processing subsystem receiving and processing said data stream, said processing subsystem adapted to encrypt said at least one data stream to form an encrypted data stream corresponding to said at least one data stream,

wherein said at least one sensing device is mounted at an interior of a refrigerator.

300. (New) The monitoring system of claim 299, wherein said at least one data stream includes an identifier.

301. (New) The monitoring system of claim 299, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a plurality of sensing devices and a central transmitter, wherein said central transmitter is in communication with each of said plurality of sensing devices, and wherein said central transmitter is further in communication with said processing subsystem.

302. (New) The monitoring system of claim 299, wherein said at least one sensing device includes first and second sensing devices, wherein said first sensing device is said sensing device mounted in an interior of a refrigerator, and wherein said second sensing device is a portable temperature sensing device.

303. (New) The monitoring system of claim 299, wherein said at least one sensing device includes first and second sensing devices, wherein said first sensing device is said sensing device mounted in an interior of a refrigerator, and wherein said second sensing device is a portable temperature sensing device in a form of one of a fork, knife or spoon.

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~~304. (New) The monitoring system of claim 299, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said first and second sensing devices are configured so that at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second device include data corresponding to an identifier.~~

305. (New) The monitoring system of claim 299, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to compress at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second sensing device.

306. (New) The monitoring system of claim 299, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to time stamp at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said

second sensing device.

307. (New) The monitoring system of claim 299, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to determine whether a data stream received therein corresponds to a sensing device which is newly added to said system.

308. (New) A monitoring system monitoring food stored in at least one serving or storage container, said monitoring system comprising:--

a sensing subsystem having at least one sensing device generating at least one data stream; and

a processing subsystem receiving and processing said at least one data stream, said processing subsystem adapted to determine whether said at least one sensing device is newly added to said system,

wherein said at least one sensing device is adapted to be disposed in said at least one serving or storage container storing food.

309. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one data stream includes an identifier.

310. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a plurality of portable sensing devices, wherein said plurality of portable sensing devices are disposed so that each of a plurality of serving or storage containers has disposed therein at least one of said plurality of portable sensing devices.

311. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said sensing subsystem includes a plurality of portable sensing devices and a central transmitter, wherein said

central transmitter is in communication with each of said plurality of portable sensing devices, and wherein said central transmitter is further in communication with said processing subsystem.

312. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device is a cooking utensil incorporating a sensor.

313. (New) The monitoring system claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device is provided by a probe having an elongated hollow pin section, said elongated hollow pin section incorporating a sensor.

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314. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device is adapted to be inserted in food.

315. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a temperature sensor.

316. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a seismic sensor.

317. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a pressure sensor.

318. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises an airflow sensor.

319. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a weight sensor.

320. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device is portable.

321. (New) The monitoring system, of claim 308, wherein said system is configured so that said sensing device is a portable sensing device adapted to wirelessly transmit data.

322. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a plurality of sensing devices, and wherein at least two of said plurality of sensing devices are portable sensing devices, each comprising a temperature sensor.

B1 (cont'd) 323. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises a plurality of sensing devices, and wherein at least two of said plurality of sensing devices comprise an airflow sensor.

324. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said first and second sensing devices are configured so that at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second device include data corresponding to a device type identifier.

325. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each of said first and second sensing devices having a battery, and each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said first and second sensing devices are configured so that at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second device include data corresponding to a battery power level.

326. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second portable sensing devices, each having a battery and a temperature sensor, and each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said first and second portable sensing devices are configured so that at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second device include data corresponding to a battery power level and data corresponding to a temperature.

327. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to compress at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second sensing device.

328. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to at least one of time or date stamp at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second sensing device.

329. (New) The monitoring system of claim 308, wherein said at least one sensing device comprises first and second portable sensing devices, each generating a data stream so that said at least one data stream includes at least one data stream from each of said first and second sensing devices, wherein said processing subsystem is configured to encode at least one data stream from said first sensing device and at least one data stream from said second sensing device in accordance with an encoding scheme.

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